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Letter dated 26 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the official declaration and final statement of the Riyadh conference held on 19 May 2015 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Khaled H. **Alyemany**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 26 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Riyadh Declaration
19 May 2015

Preamble

The corruption of the head of the regime for over 30 years led Yemen into many conflicts and wars involving the north and the south, starting in 1994. Poor governance caused the economic, social and security situations to deteriorate and aggravated the political crisis, leading to the rise of the Peaceful Southern Hirak in 2007 and the peaceful popular youth revolution in 2011. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) initiative and its implementing mechanism were established in order to stop the bloodshed and bring about peaceful change. In accordance with the initiative, a transitional period was determined. The salient achievements during that period have included electing Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi as consensus President of the Republic; stemming the deterioration of the economic and security situations; ensuring the success of the National Dialogue Conference; acknowledging that the southern issue is a just political cause and addressing it accordingly; adopting the outcomes of the All-Inclusive National Dialogue on 25 January 2014; and producing a draft constitution in December 2014. Those steps reflect the genuine desire of the Yemeni people in the north and south to leave the past behind, move ahead with laying the foundation of a civilian federal State through consensus among all components of the people in the north and south, and continue fulfilling the transitional period mandate established by the GCC initiative and its implementing mechanism and the All-Inclusive National Dialogue outcomes.

The Yemeni people and the political and civilian forces of good will have persisted in the project of building a modern civilian State. However, the Houthi militias allied with Ali Abdullah Saleh hastened to overthrow the constitutionally established authority in an attempt to forcibly undermine the peaceful transition process and drag the country into armed conflict. They successively seized control of several regions, ultimately occupying the capital city of Sana'a on 21 September 2014; taking over State institutions and the armed forces; placing the President, the Prime Minister and Government officials under house arrest; and using their military might to extend their presence and systematically destroy Yemeni cities, especially Aden and Ta'izz.

The Riyadh Conference was convened in response an appeal from the President of the Republic. All of the nation's political and social forces participated in the Conference. They were cognizant of the scale of the country's tragic collapse, and determined to take a stand against the overthrow of the lawful authorities and confront the nefarious Iranian-backed conspiracy against Yemen, through which the militias and their ally have sought to destabilize the security and stability of the country and the region.

Motivated by their sincere belief that defending the nation was the urgent duty of every citizen, the participating entities and public figures agreed that the absolute priority was to develop a project involving everyone, without exception, in

accordance with a genuine vision aimed at restoring the State, upholding its rightful authority and extending its control over the national territory in its entirety. In so doing, they were inspired by the steadfastness and the heroic victories of the popular resistance forces in the city of Aden and in Dali', Lahij, Ta'izz, Shabwah, Ma'rib, Abyan, Bayda', Hudaydah and other cities and villages in the north and south of Yemen.

Recognizing the scale of the challenge before them, and determined to fulfil the people's aspirations to build a modern State based on the outcomes of the All-Inclusive National Dialogue and consensus among the components of the people in the north and south, in pursuit of a better tomorrow, the participants adopted the provisions that had been discussed. The latter constitute the road map set out in this Declaration, known as the Riyadh Declaration, with the watchword "Saving Yemen and Building a Federal State".

The Riyadh Declaration sets out a genuine, practical national vision to restore the State and reconfigure its regional and international relations in order to fulfil the aspiration of the Yemeni people for a modern, democratic federal State upholding justice based on equal citizenship for all; strengthen Yemen's role within the Gulf and Arab region; establish regional security; and foster positive interaction with the rest of the international community.

Security Council resolution 2216 (2015) welcomed the convening of the Riyadh Conference in support of the ongoing United-Nations-brokered negotiations. The Conference hopes that those negotiations will fulfil the aspirations of the Yemeni people as set out in the present Declaration.

Through this Declaration and its provisions, the nation has chosen to support the legitimate national authorities and the principle of national partnership for all citizens of Yemen in the north and south. That principle is the cornerstone of the transitional period and the State-building project. It amounts to a categorical rejection of the rule of the militias and their project of spreading chaos, which would bring about the collapse of all State institutions, spark sectarian and regional conflict, undermine human dignity, violate human rights and endanger regional and international peace and security.

Objectives

This Declaration aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To preserve the security and stability of Yemen in the context of respect for the legitimate authorities;

2. To reverse the coup and all its consequences;

3. To ensure that stolen weapons and equipment are recovered and handed over to the State;

4. To extend State authority over all Yemeni territory;

5. To put an end to the aggression by rebel forces in order to stem the bloodshed and restore the peace;

6. To revive the political process and to build a federal State in accordance with the GCC initiative, its implementing mechanism and the outcomes of the All-Inclusive National Dialogue;

7. To prevent Yemen from becoming a breeding ground for violent groups and terrorist organizations; and to ensure that it does not pose a threat to the security and stability of neighbouring countries.

Principles

This declaration is based on the following principles:

1. Compliance with legitimate constitutional authority;

2. A commitment to establishing a federal civilian State and maintaining the security, stability and unity of Yemen;

3. Adherence to the principles of partnership and consensus in line with the assurances set out in the outcomes of the National Dialogue and the agreement to address the southern issue during the transitional period;

4. Compliance with the Riyadh Declaration and Security Council resolution 2216 (2015), which establish the boundaries for any subsequent United-Nations-brokered negotiations;

5. Commitment to the principle of accountability and lack of impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity and grave human rights violations.

Riyadh Declaration terms of reference

This Declaration is based on the following terms of reference:

1. The GCC initiative and its implementing mechanism;

2. The outcomes of the All-Inclusive National Dialogue;

3. Security Council resolution 2216 (2015) and other relevant resolutions;

4. The League of Arab States resolution on Yemen adopted at the summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt in 2015;

5. The relevant GCC statements;

6. The President's two letters to GCC leaders, dated 7 and 24 March 2015 respectively, and his letters to the League of Arab States and the Security Council dated 24 March 2015.

Decisions set forth in the Riyadh Declaration

I. Saving Yemen and restoring State institutions

The main objective of this Declaration is to save Yemen and its State institutions and extend its sovereignty over all regions of the country, by resolving:

1. To end the aggression of the rebel forces, reverse the coup, hold accountable those responsible, recover weapons and force the militias to withdraw from the capital city of Sana'a, Aden, Sa'dah governorate and all other cities and governorates, and ensure that the system of corruption, backwardness and despotism never returns;

2. To support and organize official and popular resistance under legitimate leadership in all regions where the rebel militias responsible for the coup are present;

3. To garner regional and international support for humanitarian and relief work; increase the scope and effectiveness of such work; provide basic services including the distribution of food, medicine and necessary supplies in order to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches those who need it; set up camps for displaced persons; and develop without delay a solution to the issue of Yemenis stranded abroad;

4. To ensure that the legitimate State institutions are once more able to exercise their functions within Yemeni territory;

5. To preserve the social fabric and prevent Yemeni society from being dismantled and descending into conflicts and divisions along sectarian and party lines;

6. To hold accountable the military, security and political leaders involved in the coup against the legitimate authorities, and to ensure that those leaders, who have fomented war and strife and committed war crimes and crimes against humanity in various Yemeni cities, especially Aden and Tai'zz, receive a fair trial;

7. To develop a national strategy with the participation of all political and social actors in order to combat violence, terrorism and sectarian, territorial and tribal extremism; to disseminate patriotic, national and Islamic values and foster a culture of tolerance and acceptance of the other;

8. To ensure the prompt return of persons who were deported; to provide them with due remedy and grant just compensation to the victims of the militias' crimes in all regions of Yemen, especially Sa'dah governorate and Harf Sufyan, in order to ensure that the situation in Sa'dah governorate swiftly returns to its pre-2004 state;

9. To examine the Tihamah question and support the Tihamah movement against the rebel militias.

II. Building a modern federal civilian State

In order to finalize the implementation of the transition mandate and build a federal civilian State, the following steps are needed:

1. To call upon the National Authority Monitoring Implementation of the Outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference to consider the draft constitution and submit it for general discussion and referendum;

2. To finalize the implementation within a specific time frame of the 20 points and the 11 points and all decisions relating to the southern issue, in accordance with the decisions of the All-Inclusive National Dialogue Conference;

3. To begin to build a military and security apparatus on national and professional foundations, in which the north and south will each be allocated 50 per cent of high level posts in the preliminary stage, in accordance with the outcomes of the National Dialogue and the Riyadh Declaration;

4. To enact a national transitional justice law and other laws that are needed for the remainder of the transitional period, and to initiate an inclusive national reconciliation process in accordance with the outcomes of the National Dialogue;

5. To enact legislation related to the transition to a federal State and build institutions in line with the outcomes of the All-Inclusive National Dialogue;

6. To begin to prepare and create the necessary conditions to hold free and fair presidential and parliamentary elections as a step towards building a modern federal civilian State in line with the new Constitution;

7. To stress the need for a timetable to address all Yemeni issues, especially the southern issue, which is core issue that at the heart of the situation in Yemen, and the right of the people to choose its political status in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the solutions developed and the assurances given with regard to the southern issue, and the outcomes of the All-Inclusive National Dialogue.

III. Reconstruction and rehabilitation

The State shall endeavour to provide all of the means and capacities necessary for the following tasks:

1. Mobilizing resources for reconstruction with the support of allies in the GCC and the international community; launching construction projects in all regions, especially those whose infrastructure was devastated, chief among them Aden;

2. Formulating a national strategy to address the economic situation, stem the economic decline, combat corruption and recover stolen assets;

3. Creating a sustainable economy and an investment-friendly environment conducive to achieving economic and social development and fulfilling the aspirations of the Yemeni people; developing transparent and accountable mechanisms to integrate the Yemeni economy into the economies of the GCC countries;

4. Working with GCC allies to improve the situation of Yemeni expatriates in the Gulf and create employment opportunities for them in the GCC countries, in accordance with a strategy to support Yemen's economic and social rehabilitation.

IV. Mechanisms and procedures

1. All military and political means should be used to put an end to the rebellion, restore State institutions and recover stolen weapons.

2. Efforts should be made to recruit security forces from all governorates and regions in order to preserve security and stability in accordance with the outcomes of the National Dialogue.

3. The Security Council is urged to implement resolution 2216 (2015) and all relevant resolutions in accordance with the appropriate mechanisms.

4. A safe zone should be established promptly within Yemeni territory to serve as a base for the resumption of the activities of legitimate State institutions in Yemen.

5. International financial institutions are urged to end financial and diplomatic cooperation with the militias responsible for the coup in Sana'a, monitor financial transactions to Yemen and freeze the financial assets of militia leaders and

their associates, in accordance with Security Council resolution 2216 (2015) and relevant resolutions.

6. The composition of the National Authority Monitoring Implementation of the Outcomes of the All-Inclusive National Dialogue Conference should be adjusted in a prompt manner, in accordance with the assurances given at the Conference. The Peaceful Southern Hirak, which supports the legitimate authorities and was not represented at the Conference, should be included. The National Authority should begin its mandate immediately by discussing and adopting the draft constitution to be approved by consensus.

7. The Riyadh Declaration shall constitute one of the terms of reference for the political process during the transitional period. The National Authority shall follow up implementation of the decisions set forth in the Riyadh Declaration.

Done at Riyadh
Tuesday, 19 May 2015

Riyadh Conference on Saving Yemen and Building a Federal State 17 to 19 May 2015

Final communiqué

The Riyadh Conference was held from 17 to 19 May 2015, as the steadfast popular resistance forces were amassing victories in Aden, Dali', Lahij, Tai'zz, Shabwah, Ma'rib, Abyan, Bayda', Hudaydah and other cities and villages in the north and south of Yemen. A broad range of political and social forces and actors, civil society organizations and youth and women's organizations participated in the Conference, which was held thanks to the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and his fellow leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council. The Conference was convened in response to the appeal made by President Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour of the Republic of Yemen and was chaired by him. The opening session, which was chaired by the President and his deputy, was held on 17 May and was attended by Mr. Abdul Latif Al-Zayani, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council; Mr. Ahmed Ben Helli, Assistant Secretary-General of the League of Arab States; Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to Yemen; Mr. Salih al-Qunay'ir, Envoy of the Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council; and the ambassadors of the countries sponsoring and supporting the transitional period.

Closed sessions were held in which the draft of the present communiqué was reviewed and discussed by the participants. A committee was formed to receive suggestions and draft the final communiqué.

The Conference was held in extremely complex conditions following the coup against the legitimate authorities led by the Houthi militias and forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Salih. The capital, Sana'a, fell, the President and the Government were placed under house arrest, and the war spread rest of the governorates, including Aden. Those developments are a threat to the security and sovereignty of Yemen, the security of the Gulf and international peace and security. They are also part of a foreign agenda aimed at undermining Arab security and turning Yemen into a platform from which foreign powers can exert their influence in the region. In view of those developments, on 24 March 2015, President Hadi sent a letter to the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council calling on them to stand by and protect the Yemeni people and to provide immediate assistance by all means necessary, in order to protect Yemen and its people from the continuing aggression of the Houthi militias and their ally, Ali Abdullah Salih, and to repel the attacks against Aden and all other parts of the country, whether in the north or the south.

The leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council responded to President Hadi's letter and decided that the alliance would stand by the legitimate authorities, for which the international community had expressed its support in Security Council resolution 2216 (2015).

This Conference was held in accordance with the executive measures set out in the present communiqué. A consultative committee composed of representatives of the various participating forces and actors was established to prepare for the Riyadh Conference. In addition, the essential teams required to organize the work of the Conference were formed (coordination and technical support office) and drafts of the basic documents were prepared. Those documents were discussed throughout

the course of the Conference, and the present communiqué and the Riyadh Declaration are the products of that process.

In view of the foregoing, in keeping with our sense of national responsibility and in response to the challenges before us, we, the participants:

1. Declare our absolute support for the legitimate authorities pursuant to the constitution, namely, President Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi Mansour, and pledge to strive by every means to reverse the coup and all its consequences and ensure that the legitimate State institutions are once more able to exercise all functions and powers.

2. Declare our full support for the efforts of the United Nations, the Gulf Cooperation Council, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and his fellow leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and the leaders of the fraternal Arab States and friendly countries participating in the coalition, who were quick to respond to the appeal of President Hadi to intervene in support of the legitimate constitutional authorities, reverse the coup and stand by the Yemeni people, as human conscience and the bonds of neighbourliness and brotherhood demand.

3. Pledge to accelerate and intensify support for the popular resistance in Aden, Taʻzz and every part of Yemen, and to provide its members with weapons and logistical support, and assistance in organizing and coordinating their efforts.

4. Demand of the Security Council to implement fully its resolution 2216 (2015) and other relevant international resolutions, as those are the basis of any political and peaceful solution in Yemen.

5. Call on the United Nations, the League of Arab States and the Gulf Cooperation Council to create a joint Arab military force to secure key cities, oversee implementation of Security Council resolutions and ensure that rebel forces withdraw fully from all cities and hand over State institutions and looted weapons.

6. Affirm that the Government must immediately begin efforts to ensure that the appropriate conditions are in place to care for the families of the dead and for the injured, displaced persons and all victims of the war.

7. Affirm the critical importance of speeding up efforts to coordinate and implement an urgent humanitarian relief programme that meets all the needs of civilians, who are being subjected to brutal attacks by the Houthi militias and Ali Abdullah Salih, particularly in Aden.

8. Recommend that the Government should follow up on the Riyadh Declaration and take all necessary measures to move the Government back to the homeland as soon as possible.

9. Affirm that the position taken by the Arab coalition, which is led by Saudi Arabia, was a source of hope and was met with popular and political support in Yemen, with the aim of dislodging the Houthi militias responsible for the coup and reinstating the legitimate Government, and that the position taken by the Arab and Gulf States demonstrates their keenness to maintain the unity, security and stability of Yemen, and their belief in a common Arab destiny.

10. Affirm that they are advocates of peace, which will only be achieved by the complete withdrawal of the militias of the Houthis and Ali Abdullah Salih from

the capital, Sana'a, and all other Yemeni cities in both the north and the south; the cessation of the war and all acts of aggression against the Yemeni people; the resumption by the legitimate authorities of the exercise of their constitutionally and legally mandated powers; and the extension of State authority over all national territory, with a view to completing the outstanding tasks planned for the transitional period and implementing the outcomes of the All-Inclusive National Dialogue Conference.

11. Demand that the Government should restructure the High Relief Committee and increase its effectiveness, in order to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches those who need it, to develop without delay a solution to the issue of Yemenis stranded abroad and to set up camps for displaced persons and provide them with the necessary care.

The Conference concluded its work by adopting the Riyadh Declaration, which it considers to be a fundamental document of the transitional period.

Lastly, the Riyadh Conference would like to thank the secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the consultative committee and the coordination office for their efforts in preparing for this Conference and ensuring its success.

We ask God to have mercy on the fallen and to grant the wounded a swift recovery.

Freedom to the prisoners and abductees

Glory to the valiant popular resistance

Honour to Yemen

Done at Riyadh on Tuesday, 19 May 2015